

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David E. Spaw (34,732) on 3/7/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 16, line 9, "first" has been changed to --second--.

The above change to the claim has been made to more clearly claim the invention.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over the invention patented in U. S. Patent No. 6,279,451 to Hirano et al. and Foreign Patent No. JP 63-254203 to Stole. The improvement comprises a choke valve including a two way valve mechanism arranged so that the opening of the valve can be varied depending on the pressure of the fluid supplied from the fluid pressure source for the purposes of imparting stiffness to the actuator with an extremely simple structure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

PRIOR ART

The patents to Hirano et al and Stole are cited for the showing of a choke valve similar to applicant's but lacking varying of the opening of the two valve mechanism by supply pressure.

Prior art made of record but not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure and consists of seven patents.

Kimura, Legeris et al., Iizumi '812, Iizumi '695, Iizumi '473, Grotness et al, and Holmes et al. are cited to show actuators with choke valves.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Lazo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4818. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Edward Look, can be reached on (571) 272-4820. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Thomas E. Lazo/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3745
March 7, 2008